

SOCIAL ACTION

News-Letter

OL. XVIII, 2

Indianapolis, Indiana

February, 1954

BRICKER VS. THE U. N.

For those who wish to make their efforts felt in the battle of isolationism and selfish nationalism against the growth of responsible international cooperation and law among nations, the so-called Bricker Amendment, Senate Joint Resolution 1, is the key battle-ground today. In essence what the resolution seeks to do is limit the power of the President, make it difficult, if not impossible, for the United States to participate effectively in the United Nations and weaken the power of the Federal government to make treaties with other nations.

The fact that some of the supporters of this proposed bill are honestly afraid the power of the President to make agreements and commitments with foreign governments must not be ignored. Meanwhile, we should not forget that the chief intent and the major result of the passage of the Bricker resolution could be to hinder the development of international understanding and cooperation. Especially does this legislation seem designed to prevent the strengthening of the United Nations, the achievement of world disarmament and an effective code of human rights.

Redundant and Superfluous

What are the actual provisions of the proposed amendment?

Section I says: "A provision of a treaty which conflicts with this constitution shall not be of any force or effect." This is, as Henry Steele Commager, says, "redundant and superfluous." It is already the law and the only reason for repeating it is to emphasize our fears and suspicions and to amplify the noise made by the knocking of our national knees.

Section II affirms: "A treaty shall become effective as internal law in the United States only through legislation which would be valid in the absence of treaty." This section roughly speaking proposes two things: (1) to make doubly complicated and difficult and therefore doubly unlikely the ratification of treaties and (2) to so limit the power of the federal government to make treaties as to threaten the whole concept of federal authority.

Specifically it requires that treaties must not only be negotiated by the President and approved by a two-thirds vote of those present in the Senate—our present constitutional procedure—but also we must then take three more steps: (1) enabling legislation must be passed by the House, (2) agreed to by the Senate and then (3) signed by the President (or the next president). The effect of such legislation would obviously be to smother international agreements under congressional red tape.

Less obviously but just as specifically this section binds the federal government to the making of treaties dealing with *only* those matters which do not in any way conflict with so-called "States rights." Under it for example the federal government might easily find itself blocked in negotiating inter-

(Continued on Page 4)

CHURCHES TO TACKLE THE ALCOHOL PROBLEM

What is regarded as one of the most significant projects ever launched by the Department of Social Welfare is the proposed Midwest Conference on the Problems of Alcohol to be held at Christian College, Columbia, Missouri, June 21-25, 1954.

Members of the conference will be housed in the beautiful dormitories of Christian College and meals will be served in its dining room. Free periods in the afternoon and frequent breaks throughout the day will enable conference members to enjoy the fellowship of the group and engage in recreation.

The conference will open on Monday afternoon with registration and room assignment, followed by a "Get Acquainted Hour." The conference program will center around addresses by nationally known authorities in the several fields covered, with discussion periods, and seminar groups dealing with special interests.

The program topics as tentatively outlined are as follows:

- A Survey of the Alcohol Problem in the United States
- The Nature of Alcohol and Extent of its Beverage Use
- The effects of Alcohol on the Human Body
- The Psychological Effects of Alcohol
- Alcohol, Nutrition and Disease
- Alcohol and Society
- Alcohol as a Factor in Traffic Accidents
- Alcohol and Juvenile and Adult Crime
- Treatment of the Alcohol Addict
- Legal Controls of the Alcohol Beverage Industry
- The Moral and Spiritual Aspects of the Alcohol Problem

(Continued on Page 4)

WHAT DOES YOUTH THINK ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS

If you are complacent about the state of civil rights in the U. S. you will probably be jarred by the following facts revealed by a poll of 15,000 high school students made by the Purdue University Opinion Panel, and reported by Worldover Press. The returns were "stratified" to assure wide and typical geographical range and the number was then reduced to about 3000 in order to give a scientific cross section.

Only 45 percent believe that newspapers should be allowed to decide what to print; 41 percent deny full freedom of the press. Fifty-three percent believe in free speech, but 34 percent say some people should be prohibited by the government from making public speeches. Twenty-six percent believe the police should be allowed to search a person's home without a warrant; 25 percent do not believe in freedom of assembly and 58 percent support use of third degree methods by the police. Fifty-eight percent believe that history is mainly the record of class struggle (shades of Marx!), and 49 percent also believe that large masses of the people are incapable of deciding what is and what is not good for them, while 75 percent said that obedience and respect for authority are the *most important* virtues children should learn. Twenty percent say there will always be strong and weak groups and that it is best for the strong to dominate the weak. And 37 percent say the right of some labor groups to strike should be abolished.

Thirty-eight percent believe that the greatest threat to American democracy comes from foreign ideas and foreign groups; 42 percent believe that we should resist *any* attempts to change the American way of life; 37 percent favor restricting immigration greatly lest our national standards be lowered. However, only 14 percent believe that foreign lands have little to contribute to U. S. progress.

Strangely enough, 60 percent of the youth answering the poll say the police should have the right to censor and ban books and movies whenever they see fit. Sixty percent would deprive conscientious objectors of their right to vote, and about a third think foreign visitors should not be permitted to criticize our government. However, only 46 percent had heard of Senator McCarthy!

(Continued on Page 4)

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

Published monthly, except for joint July-August issue, by the Department of Social Welfare. The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

Subscription price \$1.00 per year.

Entered as second class mail matter September 2, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Editorial Staff

James A. Crain
Ruth E. Milner

Barton Hunter
Lewis H. Deer

Loisanne Buchanan

The opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the editors and do not necessarily represent The United Christian Missionary Society.

BY-PRODUCT OF
McCARTHYISM

One result of the activities of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his investigations of suspected subversives has been to cause government officials to increase the number of Roman Catholics on the payroll as insurance against difficulty with the Wisconsin Senator, according to an article by Joseph C. Harsh which appeared in the November 10, 1953 issue of *Christian Science Monitor*. Harsh is quoted as saying "Government officials, seeking to protect their departments and bureaus from McCarthy attacks, have increasingly resorted to the practice of employing Roman Catholics as security and personnel officers." The result, he says, "is that the proportion of Roman Catholics included in dismissals is low and the proportion of Protestants high." Harsh continues, "Inquiries by this reporter failed to find a single Roman Catholic among officials dismissed from the State Department. A Protestant compilation of dismissals from the Foreign Operations Administration indicates that 80 percent of all dismissals are Protestants and many of the 20 percent of Roman Catholics were subsequently 'reabsorbed' into the service . . ." Admitting that all the facts are not available, he states that enough information has been gathered in Protestant circles to show that the activities of McCarthy have had the effect, "whether accidental or intentional," of increasing the proportion of Roman Catholics employed in the public service.

Those who attended the Disciples Washington Workshop some years ago will recall Dr. George Condon's story of how a Protestant woman employee of the government was suspended five months and subjected to terrible mental strain, while another woman, a Roman Catholic, likewise interrogated about communism, was cleared immediately when she said, "Why, I couldn't be a Communist; I'm a Catholic!" One may ask, is membership in the Catholic Church a guarantee against communism? Look at Italy, Poland, and other Red countries before you answer.

J.A.C.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

Glenn D. Everett*

→*Eisenhower Leads.* President Eisenhower has assumed the leadership of the new session of Congress by a series of hard-hitting messages on the farm problem, Taft-Hartley revision, social security, and other subjects. But the question remains as to how many members of Congress will follow. Conservative Republicans view with jaundiced eye his proposals for guaranteed farm income through price supports, which for years they have regarded as governmental intervention in the free market system, and his request for extension of social security to 10,000,000 more Americans, which they regard as part of the "hand-out state."

While these Republicans may be in the minority in their own party, they all come from very safe conservative districts, and have a lot of seniority which means they control a majority of the committee and subcommittee chairmanships.

Some, like Rep. Daniel S. Reed (R. N. Y.), who is chairman of the committee through which all tax, social security, and reciprocal trade legislation must pass, were in Congress when Dwight Eisenhower was an unknown lieutenant in the Army, and are not inclined to take advice on party program from a President who did not definitely state that he was a Republican until two years ago and who attained high positions under Roosevelt and Truman.

→*Democratic Cooperation?* The Democrats are expected to go along with a good deal of the President's program, though not with as low a scale of farm parity as he recommends. However, their enthusiasm for pushing constructive legislation is cooled by the prospect that they will get little credit for it and may even find the President using the full prestige of his office and his personal popularity to defeat each and every one of them this Fall.

When it became known that the President had asked Governor William Stratton of Illinois, who had a very conservative voting record in his one term in Congress, to consider running against Senator Paul H. Douglas (D., Ill.), many Democrats wondered if the President wasn't playing a rather peculiar game of politics. If Eisenhower is going to plug for the election of all Republicans, regardless of the merits of the individual candidates, as he did in 1952, the Democrats see little to be gained in trying to save him from the hatchet-wielders in his own party.

And that summarizes the dilemma that faces the President in 1954 when it comes to advancing his liberal proposals. He can't get them past the die-hards in his own party without substantial Democratic support and that help won't be forthcoming as long

as Democrats distrust his political role in November.

→*McCarran Act Discrimination.* The fundamentalist National Association of Evangelicals, which stood out against the opinion of most Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish religious groups, by endorsing the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act while other church groups condemned it, has now done an about-face upon observing at least one of its provisions in action. The McCarran Act forbids foreign students holding off-campus employment while in the U. S., or from receiving more than \$500 a year worth of scholarship aid or campus employment. As a result many fundamentalist colleges, supported jointly by Pentecostal groups in Canada and the U. S. are finding that their Canadian students must pack up and go home. They are poor, they are "foreigners," and they can't get visas anymore. This offers a moral lesson that discrimination against others sometimes leads to discrimination against one's own group.

→*No Refugees, But Lots of 'Wet-Backs'.* Not a single refugee has yet been admitted under the act of August, 1953, and many religious agencies, looking at the restrictive regulations handed down by the security-conscious State Department, are openly questioning whether even a small fraction of the 217,000 special visas authorized will ever be issued. A specific job and a specific house or apartment, not presently filled, and not wanted or needed by any American citizen, must be shown and must be kept open for six months or more while a specific refugee is processed for "security" to come and take it. This will be difficult.

Meanwhile, the AFL and the CIO have again appealed to Congress to put a stop to the exploitation of "wet-back" Mexican laborers in the South and Southwest. These "wet-backs," so-called because they wade across the Rio Grande River illegally, are subject to shocking abuse by unscrupulous employers in many instances. Their peon-level wages take jobs away from American farm laborers, but, strangely enough, Congress seems to feel little concern over this invasion of "cheap foreign labor." Last year funds for the administration of the Border Patrol were cut sharply even though the Un-American Activities Committee said many Communist agents are being smuggled across the Mexican border.

→*Investigations.* Senator McCarthy has asked for a Senate appropriation of \$200,000 for his free-wheeling probe, and is trying to patch up differences with enough Democrats to get it.

(Continued on Page 3)

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Fellowship By Injunction. When trustees of Lockland Baptist Church at Hartwell, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, expelled Mrs. Mary Randolph from membership in August, 1952, she took the matter to court. On January 5, this year, the Common Pleas Court in Cincinnati handed down a decision requiring the church to re-extend "the hand of fellowship" to Mrs. Randolph. The trustees say they will appeal. It is to be hoped that they will do so, for this decision could have far-reaching implications for all voluntary associations. If the courts can legally require a church to re-instate a member that fact should be determined and the grounds defined on which such action can be based.

Liquor Fund. The Indiana Alcoholic Beverage Commission on January 6, set a record-breaking fund of \$2,480.1, receipts during the last six months of 1952 from liquor license and permit fees, dance and bartender receipts. These funds are distributed to Indiana cities and towns, counties, and the school and state general funds.

Freedom of Religion? Protestants all over the world would do well to take note of the action of the Quebec (Canada) board of film censors in banning the exhibition of the great Protestant movie "Martin Luther" in that predominantly Roman Catholic province, even in churches. While Catholic Church authorities seem not to be overtly involved in the case, it was not necessary that they so expose themselves. In a province where Catholic influence is strong and where a majority of the public officials are undoubtedly under its influence such matters can safely be left to "the secular arm." The Protestants are appealing the decision, pointing out that in the Montreal area alone there are 400,000 Protestants who have a right to see this great religious picture.

Half-a Step Backward. In the November issue of this publication we published, under the headline of "Incredible Stupidity!", the story of a regulation issued by the Adjutant General of the Army permitting the sale of liquor by the drink or bottle in "open messes" (clubs) to officers over 21 years of age. The *Army, Navy and Air Force Journal* now carries a statement by the Assistant Secretary of Defense withdrawing the order, at least insofar as it applies to sales by the bottle. No purchases will be made by clubs and messes after January 1, and no sales made after April 1, to permit disposal of stocks on hand. Unless sale by the drink is barred it is but half-step backward. The new order is the result of vigorous protests from all over the country.

J.A.C.

CONTRIBUTED GOODS NEEDED FOR 1954

The World Council of Churches has issued a call for more than 5,000 tons of food and clothing for 1954. As in past years the contributed goods will go for refugees primarily, but will also support the welfare work of European churches, church institutions, pastors and church workers.

The new flow of refugees from Berlin has placed an intolerable burden on the church in that city and in Hilfs-werk which must cope with their needs when they reach the new refugee camps in the West Zone. The earthquakes in Greece have produced yet another area where emergency needs will continue throughout the year. In addition, the unsettled political situation in Trieste and the possible proposed movement of the Trieste refugees mean that the church must be alert to redirect aid to this group of refugees when and if the need arises.

A Ministry—An Imperative!

Refugees in camps and institutions must be ministered to in Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Trieste, Greece, Belgium and Turkey. Generally speaking, due either to economic inflation or low salaries, or both, church workers and pastors need help in Greece, Yugoslavia, France (the Orthodox in exile), Italy and Austria.

The 1954 total recommended to the churches of North America, Scandinavia, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland by the Contributed Goods Committee of the World Council includes the following allocations: 1237 tons of food, 1600 tons of clothing; Yugoslavia, 200 tons of food, 400 tons of clothing; Greece, 575 tons of food, 470 tons of clothing; Austria, 376 tons of food, 200 tons of clothing; Turkey, 32 tons of food, 5 tons of clothing; Italy, 50 tons of food, 20 tons of clothing; Trieste, 30 tons of food, 30 tons of clothing; Belgium, 40 tons of food, 10 tons of clothing; France, 40 tons of food, 10 tons of clothing. Church World Service in the U. S. A. is being asked for half of the clothing tonnage and more than three-fourths of the food.

The food needs include milk, meat, cheese, eggs, beans, flour, sugar, syrup, fat, oil, relief cereal, wheat, rice, dried fruit, preserves, peanuts and peanut products, cocoa, baby food and canned fish. The clothing required is not only regular clothing for men, women and children but shoes for them, layettes, linens, bedding and cloth. Soap is also needed.

NOTE!

Send FOOD PRODUCTS through the state director of CROP.

The Department of Social Welfare will accept clothing, shoes, bedding and soap for shipment to Church World Service.

R.E.M.

WORK CAMPS—COMING UP!

Here is a chance to express in action your Christian convictions—to live and work in a Christian community. Here is a chance to deepen your faith, sharpen your understanding of social problems and engage in real adventure that you will never forget.

Preliminary reports of The United Christian Missionary Society's Work Camp Committee point to four Disciples work camps for this Summer.

1—In Jamaica, B. W. I., Registration fee: all costs from one's home to the camp and return; approximately \$340.00. Time: 6 weeks including travel. Project: Rebuilding churches destroyed in the hurricane. Personnel: 15 men and women 18-30 years of age.

2—At Jarvis Christian College in Texas. Registration fee excluding travel \$120.00. Time: Seven to eight weeks. Project: Work on a new dining hall to replace one recently burned. Personnel: 15 to 25 men and women, 18-30 years old.

3—At Hazel Green, Kentucky. Registration fee excluding travel \$90.00. Time: Seven weeks. Project: Assisting community in building church. Personnel: 15 to 20 men and women, 18 to 30 years old.

4—Flanner House in Indianapolis, Indiana, a special Work Camp Directors' training camp. Registration fee \$35.00. Time: Two weeks. Project: Building homes (cooperative venture). Personnel: 12-20 adults or older young people who want to gain more practical experience and instruction in work camp procedure and philosophy.

Some scholarship funds are available for Disciples young people or for foreign students. Young people of any religious faith are welcome.

For additional information write to Barton Hunter, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

WASHINGTON—Cont. from P. 2

The House Un-American Activities Committee has asked for \$600,000, the greatest sum ever spent on any Congressional investigation, but is badly divided as to what subjects it will look into, now that its veteran chief investigator, Charles Russell, was fired by Chairman Velde. Velde has said nothing about a date for hearing J. B. Matthews, who has charged that 7,000 Protestant ministers are part of the Communist apparatus. Reluctance has been shown to putting Matthews in a position where he must testify under oath and be subjected to cross-examination.

**Mr. Everett is a Washington correspondent who writes for many religious services.*

BRICKER—Cont. from P. 1

national conventions seeking to eliminate the narcotics traffic or slavery on the grounds that such treaties conflicted with certain laws already enacted by individual states. This sort of thing turns our constitution up-side-down at this point and completely ignores the intention of those who wrote it. The logic of such a position is to encourage individual states of our nation to begin making their own individual treaties with foreign countries, and to hack up the United States into 48 separate and ineffectual entities each dealing independently with the rest of the world. The net effect of such a provision in our constitution would be simply to tie the hands of our President, our State Department and our Congress itself.

Confusion and Bickering

The third Section reads, "*Congress shall have the power to regulate all executive and other agreements with any foreign power or international organization. All such agreements shall be subject to the limitations imposed on treaties by this article.*" This of course is designed to bring all executive agreements under the same control as is proposed for treaties. Its intention is the same as the foregoing section and its outcome could only mean confusion, bickering, and the destruction of our national effectiveness in the field of international relations. Of necessity in this tremendously complex and interrelated world many of our arrangements with foreign countries must be arrived at by executive agreements. In the last ten years almost a thousand such agreements have been made by the United States. To even begin to deal with such a volume of business over and above its ordinary concerns would be to impose a preposterous burden upon Congress and to insure at the outset that many opportunities for international cooperation would have to be ignored for want of time to push through necessary legislation.

Section 3 then can be described in relation to Section 2 as, "*more of the same with a vengeance.*"

Section IV invests in Congress, "*Power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation*" and Section V describes the procedure for its adoption as a constitutional amendment. They add nothing new therefore to its essential meaning.

Conflict Now Crucial

What is the present status of the Bricker Resolution?

(1) The President and the Secretary of State have spoken out strongly against it.

(2) A considerable number of senators have indicated their support of the bill being brought out on to the floor of the Senate for consideration (not all of these will necessarily vote for the bill).

CHURCHES—Cont. from P. 1

- The Responsibility of the Churches Concerning the Alcohol Problem
- A Program of Alcohol Education and Action for the Local Church

The selection of speakers and discussion leaders is now under way, with the expectation that some of the top authorities in the United States will be secured. It is also planned to provide each member of the conference with a report of the week's discussions in addition to resource materials supplied at the beginning of the conference.

The aim of the conference will be to provide scientifically dependable leadership training in the field of alcohol education to persons who will undertake to serve as resource leaders in their own churches and communities. It is hoped to have the majority of those who register under fifty years of age, with a strong contingent of young adults and youth.

Local churches will be invited to select qualified representatives and pay their expenses. The costs as presently estimated are: board and room at the college \$20, registration fee covering resource materials, books and report of the conference \$15, and travel equalization fund \$5. This latter item is intended to assist the travel of persons coming from a distance. Provision is being made for a registration of 300. James A. Crain, who comes to retirement on June 30, will direct the conference.

It is now 17 years since repeal and there are evidences of growing concern on the part of the churches over the ever-increasing menace to the health, safety and moral welfare of the people arising from the use of beverage alcohol.

J.A.C.

(3) Senator Bricker and his supporters in a recent conference urged the President to modify his stand on the ground that there was no public support for the position which he and Secretary of State Dulles have taken.

What to Do?

There seems to be no question but that letters from either individuals or groups who have studied the resolution would exert real influence in Washington. Such letters should be sent either to the President or to one's senator. Especially letters which indicate real study of the proposed act will be effective.

For those who would like to read further about this matter or who would like to have some basis for a discussion of it write for a packet of material (free on request) to: Department of Social Welfare, The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

B.H.

DELINQUENCY STARTS IN HOMES LIKE THESE

Studies of delinquency conducted at Harvard University show that 6 out of every 10 juvenile delinquents have fathers who drink to excess; many have mothers who drink to excess; 3 out of 4 are permitted by parents to come and go as they please; 3 out of 5 are from homes where there is discord between parents; 7 out of 10 are from homes where there is no group or family recreation; 4 out of 5 have parents who take no interest in the children's friends; 4 out of 5 delinquent boys say their mothers were indifferent to them; 3 out of 5 delinquent boys say their fathers were indifferent to them; many come from broken families; few get religious training of any kind.

This information appears in an article, "What Every Parent Should Know," in the Dec. 11, 1953, issue of *U. S. News and World Report*. Again the home is pointed out as the most important factor in the life of any child.

There must be relentless effort in every community to find ways of strengthening its homes, to rehabilitate the delinquents who are products of unstable or broken homes, to train and educate for marriage and parenthood. The family is the first and most significant group in which an individual's emotional needs are satisfied. When these are not met in the home then the children seek other means of gratification which often leads to crime, to alcohol and narcotic addiction, sex orgies and all the attendant evils of delinquency.

Group action is working well in many places. Parents, teachers, ministers, police officials and others consult regularly on a course of action. No community can fold its arms and say, "It isn't happening here!"—R.E.M.

YOUTH THINKS—Cont. from P. 1

The poll shows that students who have taken civics courses are more reactionary and pro-totalitarian, on the whole, than those who had not; at least this was true of high school seniors who answered the poll.

Before we lay responsibility for this state of mind on the part of American youth at the door of our schools perhaps we ought to take a look at the homes which produce such fascist mentalities—or is it the radio, movies and television? And is the church in position to cast the first stone? How many of these youngsters were Sunday school members?

Nevertheless the whole business is a bit frightening. Many of these 15,000 adolescents will get over their muddled thinking in time, but the trend toward fascism evidenced by the Purdue poll is disturbing.

J.A.C.